

CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals at an access point of a network,
wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and
wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server accessible to the plurality of user terminals;
providing to a billing entity the statistical data;
determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point at the billing entity,
wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising operating the access point with a network service provider.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein determining the payment associated with the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the WAP.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein determining the payment associated with the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the internetwork comprises the Internet.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, information about data packets received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one wireless user terminal comprises one or more of a cellular telephone, a mobile telephone, a voice over internet protocol mobile telephone, a laptop computer, a wireless modulator/demodulator coupled to an electronic computing device, a personal digital assistant, and a two way pager.

13.-18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising operating the server with a content service provider.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server to the plurality of user terminals.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising providing, as at least part of the statistical data, a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the at least one wireless user terminal.

23. – 76. (Canceled)

77. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:
a network access point capable of collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals,

wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and

wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server to the plurality of user terminals;

a billing entity capable of determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point responsive at least in part on the statistical data.

78. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the network access point is operated by a network service provider.

79. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the network access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

80. (Previously presented) The system of claim 79, wherein the billing entity is configured to determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the WAP.

81. (Previously presented) The system of claim 79, wherein the WAP further comprises a base station.

82. (Previously presented) The system of claim 81, wherein the billing entity is configured to determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

83. (Previously presented) The system of claim 81, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

84. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

85. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

86. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the information about data traffic provided from the server to the plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

87. (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the information about data traffic provided from the server to the plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

88. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 86, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the at least one wireless user terminal.

90. (Previously presented) An article comprising: a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that if executed by a computing device performs a method as follows:

collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals at an access point of a network,

wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point, and

wherein the statistical data comprises information about data traffic provided from a server to the plurality of user terminals;

providing to a billing entity the statistical data;

determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point at the billing entity,

wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.

91. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90, wherein the access point is operated by a network service provider.

92. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90, wherein the access point further comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

93. (Previously presented) The article of claim 92, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.

94. (Previously presented) The article of claim 93, wherein the instructions, if further executed, determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

95. (Previously presented) The article of claim 93, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

96. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

97. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90, wherein the information about data traffic provided from the server to the plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless one of the user terminals.

98. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90, wherein the information about data traffic provided from the server to the plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

99. (Previously presented) The article of claim 97, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal.

100. (Previously presented) The article of claim 99, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point to the at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the at least one wireless user terminal.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to an amount paid for the access point.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to a subsidy provided for the access point.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
operating the server by a content service provider;
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to a portion of subscriber payments to the content service provider; and
wherein the subscribers access the content service provider via the plurality of user terminals.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes:
operating the network with an internet service provider; and
determining a payment for the internet service provider responsive to the statistical data.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 104, further comprising:

determining, responsive to the statistical data, a portion of the payment for the internet service provider as the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point.

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
operating the server by a content service provider;
authenticating accesses of the user terminals to the network by an authenticator;
determining a payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the authenticating; and

wherein the determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes determining, in response to the statistical data, a portion of the payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the operator of the access point.